

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

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R 181735Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1195
INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GW, PINT, SCUL

SUBJECT: FY 76 IV PROGRAM: JUNGHE UNION

REFS: A. STATE 200311 (NOTAL); B. STATE 161759 (NOTAL)

1. EMBOFF MET AUGUST 17 WITH JUNGHE UNION EXECUTIVE SECRETARY PETER HELMES TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE FALL VISIT BY JU DELEGATION. HELMES WELCOMED PROPOSAL, BUT POINTED OUT THAT NEXT SPRING MAY BE A BETTER TIME FOR SUCH A TRIP, SINCE THE JU WILL BE HOLDING ITS NATIONAL CONVENTION THIS NOVEMBER. HE AGREED THAT U.S. ELECTION WOULD, ON THE OTHER HAND, PROVIDE AN EXCITING BACKGROUND FOR THE VISIT, AND HE WILL THEREFORE PURSUE THE TIMING FURTHER WITH THE JU LEADERSHIP. HELMES BELIEVES TWO WEEKS WOULD BE THE PROPER LENGTH FOR SUCH A VISIT. FROM HIS EXPERIENCE, HE STATED THAT 5-6 WOULD BE THE IDEAL NUMBER FOR SUCH A DELEGATION, IN ANY EVENT NO MORE THAN 8-10.

2. HELMES EXPRESSED SURPRISE WHEN INFORMED THAT THREE
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JU MEMBERS (REFTEL A) WOULD BE INCLUDED IN A YOUTH FOR

FEDERAL UNION-SPONSORED VISIT OF EUROPEAN YOUNG CONSERVATIVES TO THE U.S. IN OCTOBER. HE POINTED OUT HE IS ALSO VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES (DEMYC), BUT NEITHER HAD HEARD OF THE VISIT NOR PERSONALLY KNOWS THE THREE INVITED.

3. EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY OF MEETING TO QUESTION HELMES ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN COORDINATION BUREAU (REFTEL B). HELMES STATED THAT THE ECB IS A REPUTABLE GROUP, ORGANIZED CHIEFLY TO BIND TOGETHER EUROPEAN YOUTH GROUPS OF SIMILAR LEANINGS SUCH AS YOUNG SOCIALISTS. HE DID NOT AGREE THAT IT WAS A COUNTERWEIGHT TO CENYC, HOWEVER, SINCE THE LATTER BINDS THE EUROPEAN NATIONAL, RATHER THAN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS TOGETHER AND HAS MORE POLITICAL MUSCLE. ACCORDING TO HELMES, BOTH CENYC AND THE ECB ARE PLANNING TO COMBINE FORCES TO FORM AN EC YOUTH LOBBYING GROUP IN BRUSSELS THAT WILL BE CALLED THE EUROPEAN YOUTH FORUM AND WILL HAVE AN OFFICIAL STATUS WITH THE EC. HE HIMSELF HAS PARTICIPATED IN A RECENT PLANNING MEETING FOR THIS NEW GROUP, THAT WAS RECENTLY HELD IN BRUSSELS.

4. WHEN ASKED HIS OPINION OF THE WARSAW EUROPEAN YOUTH CONFERENCE LAST JUNE, WHICH WAS BOYCOTTED BY THE JU AND ITS EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC AFFILIATES, HELMES DECLARED THAT THE CONFERENCE APPARENTLY WAS CONDUCTED IN A FAIRLY DEMOCRATIC WAY, YET THE MEAGER RESULTS CERTAINLY DID NOT JUSTIFY THE ATTENDANCE OF 1500 YOUTH LEADERS OVER A TEN-DAY PERIOD.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT A JU DELEGATION VISIT NEXT SPRING MIGHT ALSO BE MORE MANAGEABLE FROM POINT OF VIEW OF U.S. YOUTH COUNCIL THAN ONE AT PRESENT TIME. WE WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S INTEREST HOWEVER, AND WE WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE JU, IN CASE DESIRE IS EVIDENCED TO VISIT U.S. IN AUTUMN AFTER ALL.
HILLENBRAND

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